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VALIDATION AND LECTOTYPIFICATION OF *PACKERA CRAWFORDII* (ASTERACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Senecio crawfordii has generally been regarded as a synonym in recent decades, as phylogenetic studies resulted in most eastern North American *Senecio* being transferred to *Packera*. Recent research, however, indicates the taxon should be recognized at species rank. Until a fuller accounting of its distinctiveness is made, its validation in *Packera* is urgently needed for conservation assessments and use in impending floras, thus the combination is made here as **Packera crawfordii** (Britton) A.M. Mahoney & R.R. Kowal, **comb. nov.** A specimen at NY is designated as the lectotype.

In 1901, N.L. Britton described *Senecio crawfordii* Britton, a wetland species of eastern North America. Although accepted as a species during the first half of the 20th century (Fernald 1950), the taxon has since been treated as an infraspecific taxon of the species now known as *Packera paupercula* (Michx.) Á. Löve & D. Löve (Barkley 1962), or Britton's binomial has been reduced to synonymy under that species (Radford et al. 1968; Gleason & Cronquist 1991). However, the taxon's morphological, ecological, reproductive, and cytological distinctiveness argue for its recognition at species rank within *Packera* (Kowal & Mahoney, in press).

Packera crawfordii (Britton) A.M. Mahoney & R.R. Kowal, **comb. nov.** Basionym: *Senecio crawfordii* Britton, Torreya 1: 21. 1901. *Senecio balsamitae* Muhl. ex Willd. var. *crawfordii* (Britton) Greenm., Rhodora 10: 69. 1908. *Senecio pauperculus* var. *crawfordii* (Britton) T.M. Barkley, Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 65: 357. 1962. *Senecio pauperculus* subsp. *crawfordii* (Britton) G.W. Douglas & G. Ruyle-Douglas, Canad. J. Bot. 56: 1710. 1978. **LECTOTYPE** (designated here): **USA. Pennsylvania**. Bucks Co.: Tullytown, 29 May 1899, *N.L. Britton s.n.* (NY).

Packera crawfordii has a very scattered distribution from New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania west to northern Indiana and northern Illinois, south to southeastern North Carolina, western North Carolina, west-central Georgia, and western Tennessee. It occurs mainly in mucky wetland soils and appears to be very rare range-wide, based on documented occurrences. A more

detailed paper is in preparation (Kowal & Mahoney, in press), but validation of the name is needed for its imminent use in the *Flora of Tennessee* (Tennessee Flora Committee, in press) and the *Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States* (Weakley, in press) and to encourage conservation assessment of this rare and specialized species.

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